

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply To:

6840/1610(923)P

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Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2004-082  
Expires: 9/30/05

To: Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: 2004 Montana/Dakotas Sensitive Species List

**Purpose:** The Special Status Species Policy 6840 gives the State Director the responsibility of designating Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sensitive species, and periodically reviewing/upgrading the list in cooperation with states and Natural Heritage Programs. As specified in the 6840 policy, BLM sensitive species will be given the same level of protection given to Federal candidate species. The objective of the policy is to improve the condition of the species and habitats so that special status recognition is no longer warranted.

This Instruction Memorandum (IM) transmits a revised sensitive species list for use by the BLM in Montana and the Dakotas (Attachment 1); a compilation of federally listed species on BLM lands in Montana and the Dakotas (Attachment 2); and a documentation list of all species considered and the rationale for why they were included on the list or why they were not (Attachment 3).

**Policy/Action:** The BLM field offices should use the sensitive species list and current United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) list of federally listed species in budget planning, project planning and analysis and land use planning. Because the list is comprehensive for the three-state areas, field offices should review the list and specify which species are known to or potentially occur within their respective planning area. When in doubt, additional documentation and consultation with local experts are recommended.

Attachment 3 should serve primarily as a reference and tracking document. It identifies why the species were designated as BLM sensitive. Information is also included for species dropped from the previous list and other species considered but not designated. Field offices are encouraged to document the

presence of these species and track any new information as it becomes available. The Montana State Office (MSO) will maintain a master list of new proposals for inclusion or exclusion on the list from species' experts and the public. All recommendations and information will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Special emphasis should be placed on the peregrine falcon (recently delisted as threatened) and mountain plover (removed from the proposed list). These species are still included on the Special Status Species list due to the need for monitoring potential impacts.

Needs for sensitive species should be incorporated during budget planning, project planning, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, or land use planning. Although not inclusive, the following are examples of how you can meet the intent of the 6840 policy.

1. Budget planning: Develop projects to gather new baseline information, improve or restore habitat, or monitor the condition of habitat and populations after treatments. Linking project feasibility and benefits to sensitive species can improve your chance for funding.

2. NEPA analysis and compliance: When a project is proposed the ID team should look at the Special Status Species list to see if the project could be designed to improve conditions for various species on the list. If a proposed alternative or project has the potential to positively or negatively affect a sensitive species, the impacts should be described and addressed in the NEPA analysis.

3. Land Use Planning: During plan revision, the sensitive species list and FWS list should be used to define the decisions listed in Appendix C of the Land Use Planning Handbook (1601-1), primarily priority species and habitats and desired future conditions for populations and habitats.

The MSO is developing a reference for species grouped by habitat type, common conservation needs, Best Management Practices, or other logical categories of information that may be useful in land use or project planning. This information will be provided to field offices as it is collected.

**Background:** The previous sensitive species list had not been reviewed since it was completed in 1996 and the rationale for including various species was not consistently documented. This review process and revision began in January 2003.

The MSO compiled a list of potential species based on the 1996 list, suggestions from the BLM biologists, and various other lists of species of concern (i.e., United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, State Natural Heritage Program, states and adjacent BLM states). Criteria for sensitive species were developed using a combination of standard criteria in the 6840 manual and suggestions from biologists.

During the BLM Biologist Meeting in March 2004, biologists from BLM, non-governmental organizations, academia, and other agencies biologists discussed the species, criteria, and known information. Priority was given to species present on BLM-administered lands (including split estate) that are potentially affected by BLM management actions. This list is dynamic and revisions can be made when new information triggers a modification.

**Contact:** Please contact Gayle Sitter (896-5024) at the Montana State Office with any questions or comments.

Signed by: Donald Smurthwaite, Acting

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

3 Attachments

- 1-Montana/Dakotas BLM Sensitive Species List (2 pp)
- 2-Listed Species for Montana/Dakotas BLM (1 p)
- 3-BLM Sensitive Species List Spreadsheet (In its entirety)

Distribution

SOMT-1

Asst. FM Glasgow-1

Asst. FM Havre-1

**Amphibians and Reptiles**

- Boreal/Western toad (*Bufo boreas*)
- Coeur d'Alene salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*)
- Great Plains toad (*Bufo cognatus*)
- Greater short-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)
- Milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)
- Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)
- Plains spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*)
- Snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)
- Spiny softshell (*Apalone spinifera*)
- Western Hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)

**Fishes**

- Arctic grayling (fluvial population) (*Thymallus arcticus*) – *Thymallus arcticus montanus*?
- Blue sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*)
- Northern redbelly X Finescale dace (*Phoxinus eos x phoxinus neogaeus*)
- Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
- Pearl dace (*Semotilus/Margariscus margarita*)
- Sauger (*Stizostedion canadense*)
- Shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*)
- Sicklefin chub (*Macrhybopsis meeki*)
- Sturgeon chub (*Macrhybopsis gelida*)
- Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*)
- Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri*)

**Mammals**

- *Bats*
  - Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus/Plecotus townsendii*)
  - Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*)
  - Fringe-tailed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*)
  - Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)
  - Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
  - Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)
  - Northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
  - Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
- Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)
- Great Basin pocket mouse (*Perognathus parvus*)
- North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*)
- *Prairie dog*
  - Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
  - White-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys leucurus*)
- Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*)
- Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)
- Western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*)

**Birds**

- Black tern (*Chilodoniass niger*)
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Poliopitila caerulea*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene/Speotyto cunicularia*)
- Common loon (*Gavia immer*)
- Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)
- Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
- Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeolus*)
- Franklin's gull (*Larus pipixcan*)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)
- Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
- Harlequin duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus* )
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
- Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
- Longspur
  - Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)
  - McCown's longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*)
- Marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)
- Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
- Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)
- Sparrows
  - Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
  - Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)
  - LeConte's sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)
  - Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)
  - Sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)
- Sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)
- Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*)
- Trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)
- White-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)
- Willet (*Cataptrophorus semipalmatus*)
- Wilson's phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
- Woodpeckers
  - Black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)
  - Three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)
  - Red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
- Yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

## Listed Species for Montana/Dakotas BLM

Bald Eagle – Threatened  
Black-footed Ferret – Endangered  
Bull Trout – Threatened/CH proposed  
Canada Lynx – Threatened  
Gray Wolf -- Threatened  
Grizzly Bear – Threatened  
Least tern -- Endangered  
Pallid Sturgeon – Endangered  
Piping plover – Threatened/CH identified  
Ute Ladies' Tresses – Threatened  
Water Howellia – Threatened  
Whooping Crane – Endangered

## Candidate species

Dakota Skipper – Candidate  
Arctic Grayling – Candidate  
Black-tailed Prairie Dog – Candidate  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Candidate

This list is provided for your convenience. It is compiled from the lists from the appropriate field offices of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and modified for species that occur on BLM lands in Montana and the Dakotas.

**For major actions and NEPA documents such as EIS's, RMP's or RMP Revisions, you will need to request an updated species list specific to the project to be analyzed from the appropriate FWS field office!**

For smaller EA's and other NEPA documents, check the most recent list provided by FWS for changes before automatically using this list. Updates are available in Montana from the FWS website at <http://montanafieldoffice.fws.gov/>. The Dakota offices will need to contact their appropriate field offices.